

MINUTES

Child Support Schedule Workgroup
Meeting of March 25, 2011
L&I Building, Rooms S118 & 119
Tumwater, WA

Attendees: *David Stillman, Kathleen Schmidt, the Honorable Gary Bashor, Janet Skreen, Kevin Callaghan, Kristopher Amblad, James Cox, Kristie Dimak, Kathy Lynn, Timothy Eastman, the Honorable Edward Pesik, Jr.*

DCS Staff: *Ellen Nolan, George Smylie, June Johnson, Ann Mani.*

Guests: *Pat Lessard, Mark Mahnkey, Mitchell John, Greg Howe.*

I. Introductions.

II. Agenda reviewed. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

III. 2-18-11 Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Kristie Dimak's name spelling was corrected. Mark Mahnkey's public comment was noted. June Johnson's presence was noted. **The March 4, 2011 telephone conference meeting minutes were reviewed.** They were approved with the correction that Kristie Dimak was not present on the call.

IV. Priorities Discussion. Members were asked, in addition to the Economic Table, Children from Other Relationships, and Residential Credit, what other issues are important to address. Issues that were raised included the collapse of the difference between the children under twelve and over twelve in the table; extraordinary expenses, such as daycare expenses; allowing adjustments to court orders administratively; how to make the modification process easier; post-secondary education expenses; continuation of support for children with disabilities; continuation of support beyond the age of majority; other children and how to clarify when support terminates; administrative law facilitators for pro se parties, similar to courthouse facilitators; overtime and second jobs and how to consistently address in court; how TANF impacts residential credit; how people can address support obligations when they lose a job; how does debt affect the calculation of support, especially for a modification; economic table and residential time and when the noncustodial parent doesn't have a place for the child to stay – how does that affect visitation/parenting plan; linking child support and visitation; statute isn't very clear about voluntary unemployment and voluntary underemployment. There was discussion on if the group cannot get to the big three, what are the priorities – be selective on what to fix. Focus on the three topics, but can some of the subtopics be covered within the three topics? For instance, can the Economic Table Subcommittee look at children's age group with estimator? Members of the public were also asked for input, although understood that this was not public comment period.

V. Check-in from Subcommittees: The Subcommittees were asked to check-in with how the subcommittee meetings were progressing. Ed Pesik reported on the progress of the Children from Other Relationship Subcommittee. Other members were invited to give their input. They are working on trying to determine which children should be included "above the line", and to allow for parties to argue for a deviation if they are

“below the line”. Jim Cox reported on the progress of the Economic Table Subcommittee. They are currently gathering information on the tables and looking at the estimators. They do think that they will recommend that we remain an “income shares” state. The goal of the group so far is to be better educated about the models. Other members were invited to give their input. A question on how to take notes was raised. David Stillman stated that the expectation to attribute who said what and give a transcription of what was said by the note-taker is unrealistic. If there is a clear division in points of view, the notes should reflect those points of view. Notes will be distributed in draft to subcommittee members. Final notes will go to workgroup and public list serve and will be posted. Kristie Dimak reported for Andrew McDirmid on the Residential Credit Subcommittee. The subcommittee did all agree that there should be a residential credit. Some of the issues are whether there should be a threshold, and what the threshold should be (0% to 40%). They are looking at different methods – day to day; cross credit; multiplier. Is the definition of residential time “overnights”? What if you don’t actually exercise your residential time? Other members were invited to give their input.

VI. Public Comments. Mark Mahnkey, Mitchell John, and Greg Howe addressed the Workgroup.

VII. Additional Analysis on Residential Time: Ken Forgy presented his an Additional Analysis, dated March 2011, Deviations for Residential Schedules of Children. This additional review was distributed to the Workgroup and the public.

VIII. Discussion of Future Meetings/Public Meetings: The schedule of future meetings, subcommittee meetings, and a discussion of scheduling public meetings was held. A calendar was posted on the website of all meetings that have been scheduled so far, and placed in the notebooks. The group decided to see if a public meeting could be held on Saturday, June 25, 2011, in Spokane at Gonzaga University. The regular workgroup meeting would be held in the morning and the public meeting would be held in the afternoon. We would confirm with Gail Hammer that the date was still available. This would be in lieu of the June 24, 2011 meeting already scheduled. We would also try to find a location on the west side of the mountains, preferably in Seattle, on a Saturday in July for a public meeting in lieu of the July 15, 2011 meeting. July 16th or 23rd would be the dates we would try to find a meeting space. The meeting space must be free. Members were asked if they had any connections that might meet the criteria. A request was made to solicit advance questions from members of the public. Another request was made to see if the AOC meeting space at SeaTac was available for any of the other Workgroup meetings, as that space was more convenient.

IX. The meeting was adjourned.